



Ninety-Ninth Legislature - First Session - 2005
Committee Statement
LB 460

Hearing Date: March 14, 2005

Committee On: Education

Introducer(s): (Raikes)

Title: Rename and change provisions relating to the Minority Scholarship Program Act

Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:

- X Advanced to General File
 - Advanced to General File with Amendments
 - Indefinitely Postponed
-

Vote Results:

7	Yes	Senators Byars, Howard, Kopplin, McDonald, Raikes, Schrock, and Stuhr
0	No	
0	Present, not voting	
1	Absent	Senator Bourne

Proponents:

Senator Ron Raikes
Richard R. Wood
Dick C.E. Davis

Representing:

Introducer
University of Nebraska
Self

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

Legislative Bill 460 would change the name of the Minority Scholarship Program Act to the Student Diversity Scholarship Program Act.

Section 85-9,178 would replace the specific categories of Black, American Indian, and Hispanic minority students with students from diverse racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds as students that find financial requirements as a major obstacle to postsecondary education.

An additional finding was added to provide that the State has a compelling interest in attaining greater diversity in the racial, ethnic, and cultural makeup of the student bodies at the University, state colleges, and community colleges. Intent language for the program to be a temporary

measure to eliminate statistical disparities based on specific races would be deleted. Ethnic and cultural diversity are added to racial diversity as the purpose of the program.

Provisions for eligibility based on race would be replaced with a statement that the program be designed and implemented to achieve greater racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity to fulfill the described compelling state interest.

Section 85-9,179 would be amended to harmonize with the changes in other sections.

Section 85-9,180 would be amended to recognize that funds appropriated for fiscal years before 2005-06 would be for the Minority Scholarship Act and that funds appropriated for 2005-06 and each year thereafter would be for the Student Diversity Scholarship Program Act.

Section 85-9,181 would be amended to harmonize with the name change.

Section 85-9,182 would be amended to harmonize with the name change and to require awards to be consistent with the constitution and laws of the United States and the State of Nebraska.

The measure contains an emergency clause and the operative date would be July 1, 2005.

Explanation of amendments, if any:

Senator Ron Raikes, Chairperson